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ABSTRACT

This report provides longitudinal data on employment among full-time college students from 1970 through 1995. It notes that the percentage of full-time college students, aged 16 to 24, who were employed rose from 34 percent in 1970 to 47 percent in 1988, and has remained fairly stable since then. The report also states that between 1970 and 1995, white and Hispanic full-time college students, aged 16 to 24, were more likely to be employed than their black peers. Almost half (47 percent) of all full-time college students aged 16 to 24 were employed in October 1995, and more than one-fourth (27 percent) worked at least 20 hours per week. In addition, 83 percent of part-time college students in the same age group were employed, with 73 percent working at least 20 hours per week. (MDM)

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INDICATOR MONTH

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

ED 421 028

July 1998

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INDICATOR MONTH

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

July 1998

Working while in college

Working while enrolled in college can be both beneficial and detrimental to a student's academic and labor market success. Although working during the school year leaves less time for students to concentrate on their studies or to participate in extracurricular activities, students who work may gain valuable knowledge and skills that are not taught in the classroom. While some studies show that working long hours while in college may reduce a student's likelihood of completing college or lengthen the time it takes to complete a degree, some employment experience may increase a student's employment prospects and expected post-graduation wages.

- **The percentage of full-time college students aged 16–24 who were employed rose from 34 percent in 1970 to 47 percent in 1988, and has remained fairly stable since then.**
- **In general, between 1970 and 1995, white and Hispanic full-time college students aged 16–24 were more likely to be employed than their black peers.**
- **Almost half (47 percent) of full-time college students aged 16–24 were employed in October 1995, and more than one-fourth (27 percent) worked at least 20 hours per week. In addition, 83 percent of part-time college students in the same age group were employed, with 73 percent working at least 20 hours per week.**

Percentage of full-time college students aged 16–24 who were employed in October, by race/ethnicity and hours worked per week: Selected years 1970–95

	All students			White			Black			Hispanic		
October	Total*	20 or more hours	35 or more hours	Total*	20 or more hours	35 or more hours	Total*	20 or more hours	35 or more hours	Total*	20 or more hours	35 or more hours
1970	33.8	14.1	3.7	34.9	14.7	3.9	21.2	8.0	1.8	—	—	—
1972	35.1	15.0	3.4	36.3	15.2	3.2	21.5	12.2	5.8	42.7	21.0	2.5
1974	36.6	17.0	4.7	38.2	17.4	4.7	23.2	13.0	5.0	34.4	15.8	6.8
1976	37.5	16.9	4.0	39.6	17.7	3.9	22.7	11.9	4.7	35.4	14.8	3.1
1978	39.9	19.0	4.7	41.8	19.7	4.7	22.2	11.7	4.7	53.2	26.8	7.4
1980	40.0	17.9	3.8	42.1	18.3	3.8	24.0	12.2	5.1	41.4	26.6	4.5
1982	39.9	18.5	3.1	42.4	19.6	3.0	26.2	12.2	4.3	33.1	14.1	1.6
1984	42.1	21.0	4.2	44.7	22.0	4.3	25.2	14.8	3.2	34.8	19.7	4.1
1986	43.0	21.9	4.3	46.3	23.5	4.7	24.7	14.2	3.9	40.5	22.6	2.1
1988	46.5	24.5	4.7	48.9	25.1	5.0	31.8	18.6	3.3	40.9	28.7	6.7
1990	45.7	24.1	4.8	48.6	25.1	5.2	29.8	17.1	2.8	45.7	28.0	6.7
1991	47.2	25.4	5.6	49.6	26.5	6.0	31.7	19.1	3.4	54.2	30.6	4.3
1992	47.2	25.8	5.5	50.5	27.2	5.9	30.2	19.9	4.4	47.0	29.4	4.7
1993	46.3	24.6	5.1	50.1	26.5	5.5	28.9	18.0	3.8	46.7	25.1	6.3
1994	48.6	27.5	5.8	52.1	29.5	6.2	33.4	21.4	5.8	50.2	28.7	5.3
1995	47.2	26.8	6.5	50.6	28.1	6.6	35.2	23.7	4.1	37.4	24.8	8.6

— Not available.

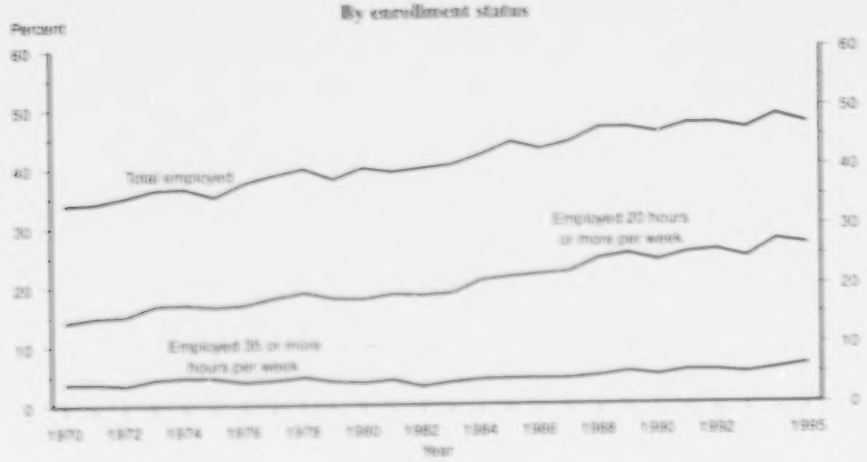
* Includes those who were employed but not at work during the survey week.

NOTE: Included in the total but not shown separately are students from other racial/ethnic groups.

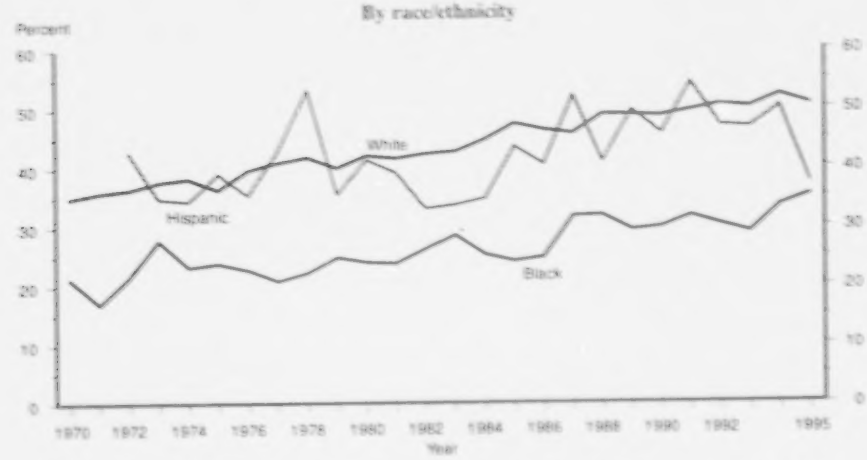
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, October Current Population Surveys.

Percentage of full-time college students aged 16–24 who were employed* in October: 1970–95

By enrollment status



By race/ethnicity



* Includes those who were employed but not at work during the survey week.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, October Current Population Surveys.

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